



October 2013

# WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 256 Indianola, IA 50125 Phone-515-961-8085

(Highway 92 West, 1400 West 2nd, turn north into fair grounds)

E-mail- contact@warrencountyhistory.org

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## WCHS GENERAL-MEETING

**October 22, 7:00 pm**  
**Riding Through History**

### Mr. Landis discusses the Bike Riding Exhibit

Leo E. Landis  
Museum Curator  
State Historical Museum of IA

## WCHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Sat. November 16**  
**9:30 am**

## WCHS Volunteer

### Appreciation Dinner

**Saturday, Nov. 2nd**  
**5:30 pm**

**We want to thank all of the many WCHS Volunteers that made 2013 a success**



Honored Rural School Teachers

**Front Row: Ruth Baughman Wilson, Eleanor Kline Heemstra, Leota Willams Broyles**

**Back Row: Ilo Burns Pegram Eveland, Ruth Richards Henry, Jeanne Clevenger King, Ethel Higgins Morgan, Shirley Kimzey McPherson**



Kristi Porter, Diana Bedwell & Carol Mahr

## Quilt Winner

2013 quilt winner was Diana Bedwell.

## Parade Winners

Best Theme-Hoosier Row Community Merchants Choice-Victory Christian School Historical Best-Greg Vlieger Family



## 2013 King & Queen

Tenny Richards Brinkman

William Schooler, Sr.

# LOG CABIN FESTIVAL



**Melvin Pfaff** with his 1931 Ford was the Over All King's Choice winner at car show. Thanks to **Charlie Stills** and Lynn Downey for a great Sunday Show.

This is Charlie's last car show for us. Charlie's car show idea has been a winner for us for three years.



## Hoosier Row Float



## Al Aldridge's Last Auction

Al Aldridge, 88, began his auctioneer life in 1964. Al worked over 2,000 auctions. He announced that this year's Pie & Cake Auction would be his last auction. Many thanks to Al and Kevin Putney for helping make our auctions a success.

Thanks to the **Cooper Family** for another great Biscuit & Gravy Breakfast and Sunday Chicken & Noodles Dinner.

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Medora 8th grade diploma, 1934 county fair ticket, 1877 map of Indianola Square—Roger Moore

Assessor's books 1925 & 1927 from Assessor Kenneth A. Dyer—Grant Dyer

Larry DuBois WW II model plane collection & books—Grandchildren Kenner & Kaci Johnson

Collicott Family Bible & Air Force magazines—Mark Higdon Jones

Jacket of Caroline McNeil—Pat & Janice Flannery

Cathedral of Amiens print, miscellaneous advertising items and "Think" metal fatality sign –Bob Guilford

The Story of the 168th Infantry (2 copies) & Story of 6th Iowa Infantry—Indianola Library

11 photos, Donna Mae Reed's graduation diploma, John Reed's grade card from Talbott School, miscellaneous school items—Patty Reed Fleishmann

Korean Uniform & Hawthorne Brick—Marge Laird

Warren County Genealogical Surname Index and newsletters– Marjorie Kline



DuBois Model Planes

## Obituary of Rebecca Ramey Story, Pioneer Woman



Mrs. I. K. Story, 91, among the last surviving wives of Union Soldiers in Warren County, died at home, 701 West First Avenue, last Saturday, March 14, 1935 at 1:30 o'clock, following a brief illness from pneumonia.

The funeral was held at the Overton Funeral home Monday, March 16, at 3 o'clock, the Rev. I. J. Brame, pastor of the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church, officiating. Interment was in the Indianola cemetery by the side of her husband, John R. Story, who passed away May 10, 1927.

Mrs. Story was among the last survivors of the early pioneers who came to Iowa before it was admitted to the union. She was born in Greene County, Ohio, October 20, 1844.

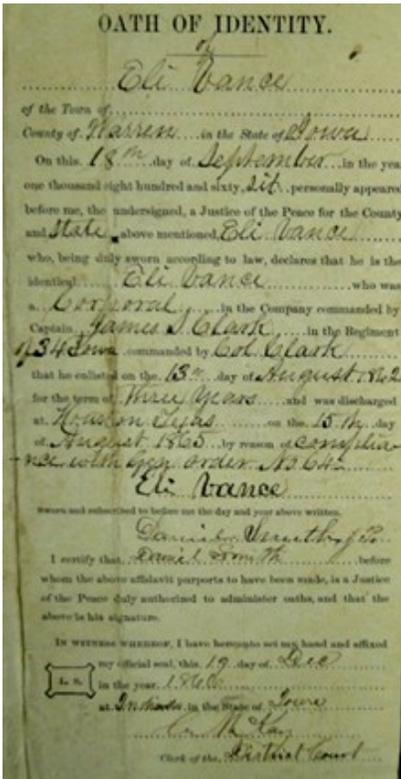
Accompanied by her parents, she reached Iowa in 1845 when she was only one year of age. Many immigrants from other states braced the wilderness to seek out new homes in the prairie country and elsewhere in the middle west. As did most of the early settlers in Iowa, Mrs. Story came in a covered wagon. They ferried across the Mississippi River at Burlington the day she was one year old.

They first settled in Louisa County where they lived for 22 years. During that time Mrs. Story had improved every possible advantage to secure an education, and as a girl she taught school in the rural schools of Louisa County.

In 1867 she came with her parents to Warren County, first settling in the old Lawrenceburg section in the Social Plains community. A year later she was united in marriage to I. K. Story, then a young man who had served in the Civil War. The marriage took place on Nov. 24, 1868. They made their home in the Social Plains neighborhood until 1881 when they moved to Indianola where Mr. Story purchased a home at South E street and West Second Avenue. They resided there until 1884 when he purchased the home at West Salem and South E Street where their children grew to maturity. The present house was purchased in 1910.

While Mrs. Story had been less active in recent years she continued to take a deep interest in affairs and her mind was active and clear almost up to the last. She was highly esteemed and respected by the people of Indianola because of her interest in the community and in her family. She fell and sustained a broken hip in September, 1931, and had been forced to walk with canes ever since. Until recent years Mrs. Story had been active in the work of the Women's Relief Corps. She had also been an active member in the James Whitcomb Riley Club and the Baptist Church.

She is survived by three daughters, Mrs. W. J. Hewitt and Mrs. W. W. Brewer of Indianola, and Miss Alice Story, librarian at Fort Dodge, and two sons, John R. Story of Indianola, and W. H. Story of Des Moines number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren also survive, and a sister, Lucy.



Civil War Oath of Identity

### CIVIL WAR MEMORIES OF ELI VANCE



**Biography:** Farmer, Palmyra, Iowa, Date of Birth: Feb 6, 1834 in Grenbriar, VA; Date of Death: July 7, 1915, Place of Death: Indianola, Iowa, Place of Burial: Odd Fellows Cemetery Indianola, Iowa, Father: William Vance, Mother: Catherine, Wife: Emily J. Irion, Children: Charles A, William, Willis, Ida May, Francis Amanda

**War Record:** Private Company D, 1<sup>st</sup> Iowa Infantry, Private in 34<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infantry, Company C, enlisted Aug 13<sup>th</sup>, mustered Oct 15, 1862. Promoted 8<sup>th</sup> Corporal May 29, 1863; 6<sup>th</sup> Corporal June 1, 1863; 5<sup>th</sup> Corporal Oct 30, 1864. Transferred to Company B., 34<sup>th</sup> Consolidated Battalion Nov 12, 1864. Transferred to Company B, 34/38 Consolidated Battalion Jan 1, 1865, as 8<sup>th</sup> Corporal, mustered out Aug 15, 1865, Houston, Texas

In 2002 family members gave the Warren County Historical Society hand written letters and memorabilia from Eli Vance. The following are excerpts from letters to his wife Emily.

March 20, 1863 Benton Barracks

*...I am in very good health but the other boys the most of them at least cant say so. There is 6 of the boys that is very sick in the barracks. It's a hard site to see so many of the neighbor boys being in such a condition. But it is the best that can be done. The hospital is full and they fair better here than they would if they were down at the hospital. They don't take any care of them. They neglect food and medicine.*

*Hiram Moon is sick, there is very few of the boys but what is sick with various finds of diseases. There is one of the boys that has inflammation in gland of his throat. His head and neck is swell so tight that he cant hardly breath and it is still swelling.*

*I think of you and Charley and Mary every hour in the day and what a fool I was for going for I could have stayed. But maybe it is for the best at last. ...Furloughs will be granted and I will bet there aint any in the company that has money enough to them to get 1/2 way home.*

October 6, 1863

*Well Emily, we are still watching the Rebels yet. Expecting an attack every day. We have a very small force. The Rebels have three to one. They have taken two regiments already and if they attack, we will have to fight like Bloodhounds. The Rebels has got 8,000 strong we have only 1,500 many left. We have 16 cannons the Rebels have 12. We have four gun boats and one siege gun. There will be a hot battle if they do attack us. We have got our positions very strong. We have got a gun planted every 30 steps. I think they will have a good time if they get over. We will catch and help down the point of the bayonet. They cant take us what is left is resolved to die before they take us in we used to go in to the battle without resolved to whip or die or whip is the way in camp. We are prepared and awaiting for them and the sooner the better. The news is today that France is going to take a part with the south. But they have been taken apart for so long. That I don't think anything about the report anymore. If France does, she will get her mess of it before they get out of it. If does would go in for not taking any prisoners. Killing them as fast as we could get in reach of them. They had as well tend to their own affairs and they will have enough to do. We can tend to ours and tend to the south. But if nothing else will but to fight and fight.*

February 15, 1865 Florida

*I will say the camp is full of rumors of peace. I hope they are all true. There is one in camp this morning about them working on terms for peace. But I cant hardly believe it yet. Though it may be true. The paper state that Abe and Blair had gone to meet the Rebel Congress there to make or try to come on some terms of peace. I sometime think why not now as well as any other time. The sooner the better on both sides. We can fight on for years but it is increasing the debt and will make the times so much harder.*

*I have thought that three years wasn't long to be away. But I have found out different. It appears a lifetime to me since I left you. But the time is passing very fast at present and will soon come when I will be on my march home. Happy rejoicing that I have got out of halter and can go where I please and come when I please. I don't think that I will ever like a soldiers life anymore. I have had a plenty I will take no more in mine. If I had no one at home to think about I could get along fine. But I have someone to think about, that I think more of than the army. So I will quit for a season and let someone take my place*

Daughter Mary Vance & Eli in front of Indianola house





**Milling replacement logs at Lynn Hommer's farm with portable saw mill.**

Lynn Hommer donated red elm to be made into logs to replace our log cabin's burned logs.

Lynn has a portable saw mill from Murry, Iowa come to mill lumber for him annually.

Allan Stalter replaced the burned logs, window and wooden shutter



**LOG CABIN REPAIRED FOR LCF**



**Installation of new logs, window, shutter and chinking.**

**LCF RURAL SCHOOL BOOK**

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**Printed for 2013**

\$30

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**\*148 Schools**  
**\*4,000 Plus**  
**Teacher Names**  
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RURAL SCHOOLS in WARREN COUNTY, IOWA 1847 to 1959  
 Compiled by: Jerry K. Beatty  
 Published by: Warren County Historical Society

**Rural Schools in Warren County, Iowa—1847-1959** highlights the contributions of teachers, students and school officials who played a critical role in the education system of Warren County for over a century.

The 247-page book includes charts and township maps depicting the origin and location of 148 rural schools. Utilizing personal recollections and other resources, the book features a number of interesting, humorous and sometimes grim stories about love and life in Warren County rural schools.

A must buy for educators and persons who attended country school in Warren County.

**LOG TAVERN ON PIONEER STAGE TRAIL BETWEEN INDIANOLA & WINTERSET**

Raymond Maxwell purchased McCarty land where the Oswego tavern was located. The tavern had been a former post office/stage coach stop but was later used by Carl Spence to store farm machinery.

The old tavern, also called "seven mile house," was on the main road to Winterset via St. Charles and the mail was carried by drivers who changed horses at the old landmark. The stage route followed the natural divide between South and Middle Rivers.

During the gold rush in 1849 Oswego was a busy place and was built by Jonathan Smith (part of the Smith family that went west and was massacred in Idaho, See June WCHS Newsletter), who sold it to Jim Reddish, who sold it to Joseph Davidson, who sold it to Frank Hammond. Oswego (Pryor) had a post office from July 1864-September 1869. John Davidson lived at the stage stop house. His son, G.G. Davidson, was postmaster there and in later years was a railroad clerk for the train running then from Winterset to St. Charles.

W.J. Slinker, who lived in the neighborhood, remembers when four-horse stage coaches passed along near the Davidson School which he attended. He also remembers seeing Indians coming through begging. One time when he was very small, he and his sister Josephine saw Indians coming and hid in a lumber pile. **From Warren County's Communities-There Were 82 of Them and Warren County Genealogical Society May/June 1999 Newsletter**

**Oswego Tavern located in the southwest quarter of Section 36 Jefferson Township in Warren County**



Bunkmate

## CHARLEY BARKER SPENDS SUMMER IN OKLOHOMA

Charles Barker

From Elizabeth Clarkson Zwart's The Front Row Column, Des Moines Register



Last month at 83, Charley Barker was at Methodist Hospital for surgery and one of the things in the bag he took was an old clipping of a newspaper story written by Indianola publisher, Don Berry, Mr. Barker's cousin.



The clipping read in part: "When Charley Barker was in his middle teens he spent a summer in Oklahoma (Indian Territory) with his Uncle Frank. One day Uncle Frank said he'd bought a herd of 150 cattle from a squaw man up near Claremore, and he asked if Charley would like to go along to help drive them to Sapuipa. Charley was used to horseback and driving cattle. Nothing would suit him better...."

For the three days to Claremore each man had his saddle horse, and they had an old seasoned horse for a packhorse. When they came to the Arkansas River they drove the old packhorse in first because he knew how to find the riffles and the solid bottom and get across without being bogged down in quicksand. Then the others followed safely.

At the squaw man's ranch they camped overnight before starting home with the cattle. Now the squaw man was a white man who had married an Indian squaw. The children of such a union were half breeds, but the first syllable was omitted and they were called "breeds"....As the boys were starting out next morning with their cattle the squaw man volunteered to send his breed son along to help as far as crossing the Arkansas.

Charley and this breed took a liking to each other. The breed showed him some pretty good roping. They bunked together a couple of nights and the breed tied their lariats together to surround their bed. Where the ropes were tied he left one long end to extend away from the main line of ropes. When snakes would come to the rope in the night and wiggle along it looking for a place to cross they would come to this end and be guided away from the camp.

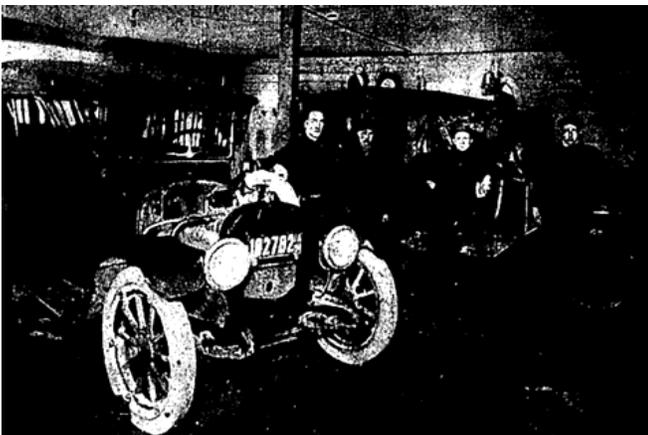
The breed was one of the most interesting fellows Charley ever encountered. However, he never heard of him again for years.... Then his uncle visited in Indianola and asked Charley if he remembered that breed on the cattle drive.

"Know who he was?" asked Uncle Frank, "You have heard of him many times. That was Will Rogers."



## CAR DEALER Extraordinaire Fred Kent

**Fred Kent Sr. bought out, for \$950, the equipment, tools, fixtures and good will of the Smith Garage in Indianola. Fred Sr. is the man standing at left in the group of four men. This picture recalls the days of isinglass side curtains, cranks, put down tops, and those lugs that you screwed on and off when you changed a tire.**



**From: The Algona Upper Des Moines, December 9, 1952**

Kent from Graetlinger, Palo Alto County, IA attended Simpson one year and heard of a man named Dale Smith who had a Ford Agency in Indianola. He heard there might be a job in the garage quartered in a rebuilt livery stable. He took the job sweeping out the garage with a broom. He worked there a year doing janitor duties, driving livery at night and working in the shop by day. A year later he learned that Smith wanted to sell.

He told his father that he wanted to buy the business. His father said, "What are you going to buy it with?" His father did not want Fred to be a mechanic but loaned him the \$950 when he was convinced how serious Fred was. Fred was barely able to vote and he owned a garage minus the Ford Franchise.

He worked hard for a year and bought the "Overland" Franchise. Fred knew the 1915 & 1916 "Overland" like the back of his hand. Then he switched to Paige Franchise which he handled until 1917.

He sold out moved to Montana and then back to Graetlinger where he became a farmer. 5 years later he sold out the farm and moved back to Indianola and worked for Hale's Ford Franchise.

In 1928 he moved to Algona where he had a Ford Garage. He started to recondition Ford parts and eventually created the Kent Manufacturing Co, which had 28 employees and was the only Ford reconditioned parts business in Iowa.

## 2013 LOG CABIN FESTIVAL RECEIPTS & EXPENCES ( as of 10-7-2013)

### RECEIPTS:

Sponsors-1600.00  
 Craft-1220.00  
 Raffle-1672.94  
 Indianola Chamber of Commerce Grant for book -215.00

Breakfast-926.00  
 Chicken Noodle Dinner-1759.00  
 Food Vendors-300.00  
 Car Show-1781.00  
 Scare Crow-130.00  
 Auction -1925.50  
 Start Up \$-900.00  
 Garage Sale-1068.49  
 Antique vendors-155.00  
 Country School Books-4080.00  
 Log Cabin Day mugs-6.00  
**Total Receipts for LCD-\$17,738.93**

### EXPENSES:

Crouse Café-2012 rolls-37.50  
 Treasurer State of Iowa Sales tax for 2012-31.00  
 Refund 2013 Craft Vendor-75.00  
 State for raffle license-40.00  
 Car Show flyers-127.28  
 Car Show Plaques-581.00  
 Warren County Fair Association for rent-950.00  
 Bobs Custom Trophies for Honorees plaques-360.00  
 Bank for change-900.00  
 Breakfast supplies-136.10  
 Dinner supplies-344.94  
 Scare Crow Expense-52.66  
 Quilt Expense-728.71  
 Raffle Tickets-186.48  
 Tape expense for cover of quilt for parade-13.76  
 Country School Books-2977.14  
**Total Expense-\$7,541.57**  
**LCD Net Profit-\$10,197.36**

**Thanks to all who helped with our  
2013 Log Cabin Festival.**

**It was the most successful event (despite  
Saturday's rain) that we have had in many years.  
Special thanks to Chairs Dan & Kristi Porter and  
the LCF Committee: Kathi Stanfield, Lynne Davey,  
Ruth Hall, Jerry Beatty, Alice Brito, Beverly  
Dickerson, Darlene Lawyer, Juanita Ott, Rex  
Young, Mary McCormick, & Charlie Stills**

**Don't forget to attend our Volunteer Appreciation  
Dinner Saturday, November 2nd, if you helped  
with LCF, Pioneer School or anything else.**

## A BIG THANK YOU to These 2013 LOG CABIN FESTIVAL SPONSORS

Barker Implement & Motor Co., Inc.  
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when you use their services. They helped make this a successful  
event.**



WCHS Co-Presidents Dan & Kristi Porter